

Claims

1. A method for automatically composing an electronic audio-visual menu for selection of playback of audio-visual data, wherein a first portion of audio-visual data and a first portion of menu data is retrieved from a first storage medium being an exchangeable pre-recorded medium, and wherein a second portion of audio-visual data and a second portion of menu data are obtained from a second data source different from said first storage medium, wherein said second portion of menu data has at least one attribute associated, the method comprising the steps of
- generating an initial menu from the first portion of menu data, the initial menu containing one or more visible, selectable buttons and at least one invisible placeholder that cannot be selected, wherein the placeholder has at least one attribute associated;
  - extracting said attribute associated with the second portion of menu data;
  - comparing said extracted attribute with said attribute associated with the placeholder; and
  - based on said comparison, if both attributes match, replacing the placeholder with a visible and selectable button defined by the second portion of menu data.
2. Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically detecting the availability of said second portion of menu data or of said second

portion of audio-visual data.

3. A device for automatically composing an audio-visual menu for selection of playback of audio-visual data, the menu containing buttons for selecting portions of the audio-visual data, wherein a first portion of audio-visual data and a first portion of menu data are retrieved from an exchangeable pre-recorded storage medium, and wherein a second portion of audio-visual data and a second portion of menu data are obtained from a second data source and the second portion of menu data has at least one first attribute associated, the device comprising
- means for generating an initial menu from the first portion of menu data, the initial menu containing one or more visible, selectable buttons and at least one invisible placeholder that cannot be selected, wherein the placeholder has at least one second attribute associated;
  - means for extracting said first attribute associated with the second portion of menu data;
  - means for comparing said extracted first attribute with the second attribute associated with the placeholder, and for indicating that both attributes match; and
  - means for replacing upon said indication the placeholder in said initial menu with a visible and selectable menu button.
4. Method or device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the second data source is a local storage medium, and the data that defines the visible and selectable menu button replacing the

placeholder contains a unique reference to the stored second portion of audio-visual data.

5 5. Method or device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the data that defines the visible and selectable button replacing the placeholder further contains button location information or a specification of conditions for button activation.

10 6. Method or device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the data that defines the visible and selectable button replacing the placeholder further contains picture data defining the appearance of the button.

15 7. Method or device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the exchangeable storage medium is rewritable, and said second portion of audio-visual data and said second portion of menu data are also  
20 stored on said medium.

25 8. Method or device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein upon replacement of one or more placeholders by one or more visible and selectable buttons another, previously visible and selectable button defined in the first portion of menu data is disabled and switched invisible.

30 9. Method or device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said second portion of menu data contains navigation chaining information.

10. An electronic exchangeable storage medium containing audio-visual presentation data and related menu data, the storage medium containing within the menu data

- 5       - a data portion specifying a placeholder, the data portion indicating that the placeholder may not be used to generate a visible menu item; and
- an attribute associated with the placeholder and specifying a location on another storage medium
- 10       where to retrieve the data by which the placeholder may be replaced for generating a visible menu button.